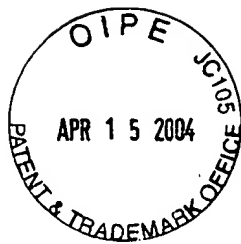
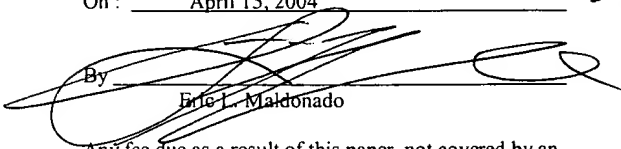


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Eric J. Maldonado

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Attorney Docket No. NECN 18.280 (100933-16777)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Shota IWASAKI, et al.
Serial No.: 09/768,633
Filed: January 24, 2001
Title: CIRCUIT BOARD
Examiner: Ishwarbhai B. Patel
Art Unit: 2827
Con. No.: 3961

April 15, 2004

Director of the U.S. Patent and
Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and a copy of the documents listed thereon. This document contains information in which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

Also attached is a copy of a Japanese Office Action dated March 24, 2004 from the corresponding Japanese Patent Application. All of the documents listed in Form PTO-1449 appear in the Japanese Office Action.

As this statement is being filed after the issuance of a final Office Action, a fee of \$180.00 accompanies this document in accordance with 37CFR §§1.97(c) and 1.17(p).

For documents written in a language other than English, English language abstracts are annexed thereto explaining relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98 (a)(3).

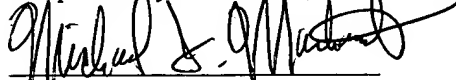
Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 §CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael I. Markowitz

Reg. No. 30,659

CUSTOMER NO.: 026304

(Tel) 212-940-8800

(Fax) 212-940-8986

Docket No.: NECN 18.280 (100933-16777)



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Patent and Trademark Office U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

1489/PTO

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office

Application No. : 09/768,633

Filing Date : January 24, 2001

First Named Inventor: S. IWASAKI

Group Art Unit : 2827

Examiner Name : I.B. PATEL

Attorney Docket No. : NECN 18.280

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD- YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Office ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Country	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD- YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		11-040698	JP	SHINKO ELECTRIC IND CO LTD	02/12/1999	
		07-273243	JP	TOSHIBA CORP	10/20/1995	

Other Prior Art-Non Patent Literature Documents

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¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1* if possible. * Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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